

spices, in order to restrict the cultivation to the two or three that they were able to watch over, showed a narrowmindedness in the government of that time which has since happily passed away. After spending some hours here, we returned to the vessel, well pleased with the day's recreation.

Shooting parties left for the interior, as it was reported that the forests contained deer, pig, and a species of cuscus, but none were met with. Of birds, the naturalists collected some seven or eight species; the most remarkable being a fine and handsome fruit-pigeon, which feeds upon the nutmegs, or rather on the mace, and as we strolled through the forests, its loud booming note was continually heard.

*Oct. 2nd.*—Our stay was limited to three days, when we proceeded on our way. The sea was beautifully calm, and the bright sun and clear sky threw a flood of golden light over all. The distance was only 115 miles, and we were now approaching Amboyna, the most important of the Spice Islands, where we arrived and anchored on the 4th October. Amboyna is the name both of the island and its chief city—in fact, it is regarded as the capital of the Moluccas.

The island consists of two peninsulas, so nearly divided by inlets of the sea as to leave only a sandy isthmus about a mile wide near the eastern extremity. The western inlet is several miles long, and forms a fine harbour, on the southern side of